

With the U.O.H.S.
Compliments.

I

Medical Officer of Health's Report for 1906.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council
of Turton.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my 26th Annual Report on the health and sanitary condition of the Urban District of Turton, together with a summary of sanitary work during the year 1906.

The various statistical items are calculated at a rate per 1000 upon an estimated population at the middle period of the year of 12,600.

The total number of births was 222; 101 males and 121 females, or an annual rate of 17·61. The rate for the whole County during the year 1905 was 25·06, and for England and Wales during the same year was 27·2. In your district during the same period the number was 250, and the rate 19·89. As compared with the year 1905, the past year shows a decrease in the birth rate of 2·28, and a decrease on the mean of the previous 7 years of 3·69.

Subjoined is an analytical table in respect of births in the 4 principal divisions of your district.

Births in	Population.		1906.			1905.			Rate.	
	1906	1905	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	1906.	1905.
Turton	6916	6893	57	64	121	73	58	131	17·4	19·0
Edgworth	2562	2555	19	23	42	22	23	45	16·3	17·6
Bradshaw	2260	2256	17	21	38	28	26	54	16·8	24·3
Belmont	862	861	8	13	21	8	12	20	24·3	23·2
Total	12600	12565	101	121	222	131	119	250	17·6	19·8

All the divisions exhibit a decrease in the birth rate excepting Belmont, which shows an increase of 1·14.

No illegitimate births were registered.

The total number of deaths during the year was 160; 78 males and 82 females. The annual death rate was 12·6, an increase of 0·9 on the rate for the previous year, but a decrease of 0·1 upon the mean of the previous 7 years. The County rate for the year 1905 was 14·32, and the rate for the whole of England and Wales was 15·2, so that your district still occupies a favourable position in respect of mortality.

The following table shows the distribution of the deaths in the 4 principal divisions of your district, as well as the comparative statistics of the years 1906 and 1905.

You will observe that Turton shows an increase of 1·5, that Edgworth has decreased its rate by 2·0, that Bradshaw shows an increase of 2·2, whilst Belmont shows an increase of 3·5. The increase in the rate for the Bradshaw Ward is accounted for by the number of deaths from Diphtheria, during the epidemic of that disease in the Harwood portion of the Ward.

Deaths in	Population.		1906.			1905.			Rate.	
	1906.	1905.	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	1906.	1905.
Turton.....	6916	6893	43	44	87	30	46	76	12·5	11·0
Edgworth.....	2562	2555	11	19	30	16	19	35	11·7	13·6
Bradshaw.....	2260	2256	22	14	36	18	13	31	15·9	13·7
Belmont.....	862	861	2	5	7	1	3	4	8·1	4·6
Total.....	12600	12565	78	82	160	65	81	146	12·6	11·6

The deaths of infants under 1 year in age numbered 14, or a rate of 63 per thousand births during the year. Zymotic diseases caused 9 deaths, or a rate of 0·73. There were 11 deaths from Phthisis, or a rate of 0·87. Respiratory diseases caused 36 deaths, or a rate of 2·85.

Comparing the year 1906 with the previous one, the infant mortality shows a saving of children's lives to the extent of 9 per 1000 births. The equivalent rates for the County and for England

and Wales during the year 1905 were 132 and 128 respectively, which, in each case, is more than double the rate for your district. A further gratifying feature is that the rate for the past year is 20 per 1000 below the mean of the previous 7 years. The Zymotic rate has decreased by 0·54 per 1000, although there was such a large number of deaths from Diphtheria in the Harwood portion of the district. It is very considerably lower than the rate for the Urban Districts in the County, and than that prevailing in the whole of England and Wales. The Respiratory mortality exhibits a similar rate to that of the previous year, 1905. The deaths from Phthisis were slightly increased, but the rate of 0·87 is still very satisfactory.

The foregoing are the most important factors in estimating the sanitary condition and progress of a district, their generally favourable character is therefore very gratifying, and is a strong incentive to further endeavour.

The following table has been compiled so that the various items may be presented to you in such a form as to enable you to make a comparison, not only of the principal divisions of your district, each with the others, but also of the past with the previous year.

1906. DIVISIONS.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Zymotic Diseases.		Phthisis.		Respiratory Diseases.		Infantile Mortality.	
			No.	rate.	No.	rate.	No.	rate.	No.	rate.
Turton	17·49	12·56	0	0	8	1·15	16	2·3	9	74·3
Edgworth	16·39	11·70	1	0·39	2	0·78	8	3·1	2	47·6
Bradshaw	16·81	15·92	7	3·09	1	0·44	11	4·8	3	78·9
Belmont	24·36	8·13	1	1·16	0	0	1	1·1	0	0
Whole District.....	17·61	12·69	9	0·73	11	0·87	36	2·8	14	63·0
1905.										
Turton	19·0	11·0	4	0·58	3	0·43	19	2·7	10	76·3
Edgworth	17·6	13·3	8	3·13	3	1·17	5	1·9	3	66·6
Bradshaw	23·2	13·7	3	1·13	2	0·88	9	3·9	3	55·5
Belmont	19·2	4·5	0	0	0	0	1	1·1	2	100·0
Whole District.....	19·8	11·6	15	1·19	8	0·63	34	2·7	18	72·0

The infectious diseases notified during the year numbered 105, an increase of 16 on the previous year's record. The distribution

of the cases over the several divisions of the district is shown in table 3 annexed to this report.

The following is an analysis of the notified cases in respect of number and resultant mortality.

DIPHtheria AND MEMBRANOUS CROUP.—52 cases, 51 of the former, and 1 of the latter. Of the Diphtheria cases, Eagley Ward contributed 1, due to defective drain; Edgworth 3, the origin of two of these could not be traced, whilst the other was due to a defective drain. Belmont had 2 cases, probably contracted at school; I referred to these in my monthly report for September in the following terms—"I made a careful investigation as to the origin of these cases. I inspected the Belmont School but found no assignable cause in either the school buildings or conveniences. I found from the school Registers that in addition to the case notified, 3 other children ceased to attend school between the 10th and 17th of September, and from enquiries, I concluded that they had all had Diphtheria in varying degrees, but had not been under medical treatment. All 4 children were apparently infected at the same time and probably from the same source, most likely through some child who had the disease during the holidays, and had returned to school in an infective condition. I endeavoured to trace the disease to its primary origin, but was unable to do so. The second case occurred about 10 days after the first notified, and as the two boys were in the same class and sat near to each other, it is a reasonable assumption that the one infected the other." Bradshaw Ward is credited with 45 cases; one was due to opening and cleansing a choked drain during the time of the boy's visit to a house in Stitchmy Lane, Harwood. Two were at Baxter's Farm, Higher Bradshaw; the primary case here was that of a boy who daily delivered milk in Bury, and as no local cause was discoverable, he probably contracted the disease there; from this case the other was directly infected. The remaining 42 cases comprised the epidemic in the Harwood portion of the Ward which commenced during the first week in February, the primary case notified February 7th from 227 Tottington Road. From this case followed in direct sequence all the rest. During February 12 cases were notified; March, 14; April, 1; and May, 5,

when the epidemic terminated. The originating cause was a cellar of house 229 Tottington Road, which was used as a stable and hen house. The place was in a filthy and insanitary condition, the drains were choked and the ventilation was practically nil. As there was persistent disregard of the Notices of Abatement, a prosecution was entered, and a penalty (a fine of £5) was inflicted. During this epidemic 6 children died. One death was also registered in Belmont from Diphtheria, and one in Edgworth from Membranous Croup.

SCARLET FEVER.—Notified cases 45, which were distributed as follows:—Eagley Ward 4 cases; one was contracted at Astley Bridge where the disease was prevalent, two through attending public entertainments at which there were many persons from Astley Bridge; the other case acquired the infection from one of these. Egerton Ward—One case notified which was discovered in the peeling stage; no satisfactory originating cause could be found. Chapeltown Ward—One case, the cause of which could not be traced. Edgworth Ward—13 cases; the origin in 2 cases could not be clearly assigned. In 3 cases there had been antecedent cases in the same houses in the months of October, November and December of the year 1905. Two cases were in a house in which there had been a case four months previously, and 4 were directly infected from them. One case was contracted at school in Tottington, and one at the Derby Street School in Bolton. Bradshaw Ward—Notified cases 26. Four occurred during January, and were in continuation of the epidemic in the final months of the preceding year, 1905, and included in my report for that year. One was contracted at the Continuation School in Bolton. One was in a house in which there had been a case a month previously. The remaining 20 cases may be conveniently divided into two series. The first, consisting of 11 cases, took origin in the house of a man employed as a Collector of soiled linen by a Laundry Co. The second, comprising 9 cases, had its origin in 2 cases which no doubt were infected by 2 cases in the next house which were in the “peeling stage” when discovered when medical advice was obtained for the 2 new cases. Ignorance of the nature of the affection was pleaded by the mother of the children, so that a prosecution was not advisable. No deaths from Scarlet Fever were recorded.

ENTERIC FEVER.—Two cases. One of these cases in the Edgworth Ward was due to an unrecognised case in the same house, which was probably caused by infection received during the man's work of emptying ashpits in which he was frequently employed. The other case in Harwood was a young lady whose employment was that of an Instructress in Cookery whose duties took her to other districts, and she very probably contracted the disease outside your district. No local cause could be found. No deaths were registered.

ERYSIPELAS.—The notified cases numbered 6, and there was one death in an infant 3 weeks old.

WHOOPING COUGH was prevalent in Edgworth during January, February, and March. I drew up instructions relating to the prevention and treatment of this disease and Measles, which were, in the form of a leaflet, distributed in every part of the district. Three deaths were registered.

CHICKEN-POX was prevalent throughout the District during the first 6 months of the year, some of the cases were very severe. One case in the Harwood locality so closely simulated Small-Pox that its true nature could only be definitely determined after close observation. The difficulties in diagnosis were intensified by the fact that the girl, aged 15, had not been vaccinated.

The measures taken with the object of limiting the extension of infective diseases were "home isolation," the visitation of schools, the closing of schools if necessary, the fumigation and cleaning of schools, infected houses, wearing apparel and bedding. These are the only available methods of dealing with these infected places and materials, as no stoving appliances are provided.

The only isolation arrangement is an agreement with the Ainsworth Small-Pox Hospital Authority providing two beds for the accommodation of cases of Small-Pox.

The District is supplied with water by the Bolton Corporation Waterworks, excepting a few outlying farms and detached cottages which obtain their supply from springs and shallow wells. The water supply of 2 farms and 10 cottages were found to be unsatisfactory, requiring the cleansing of the storage tanks and filters. No complaints have been received as to the quality of the water supplied, so I assume it to have been satisfactory.

The whole District is properly sewered, and the 3 sewage works have worked satisfactorily, and are still fully efficient.

The scavenging of the District was satisfactory. Every effort is being made to effectively deal with the road dust problem. It is yet too early to decide upon the relative merits of the several experimental lengths of road formation which were laid down during the year.

I have made regular and systematic inspections of your whole district during the year, and have notified to your Sanitary Inspector several insanitary conditions which have come under my observation, and in all instances prompt removal has been effected.

During the year there were 39 conversions from the most objectionable and injurious ashpit methods of excrement disposal to the cleaner and more sanitary water carriage system, and I trust your Council will still continue to encourage these conversions by continuing the grant of a bonus upon conversions during the coming year.

I note with satisfaction that 18 new houses have been provided with fresh water closets, and 3 with dry earth closets.

The various Workshops have been visited, and their sanitary condition carefully supervised. In respect to ventilation, air space and cleanliness, the legal requirements have been properly observed. A few insanitary conditions have been found and remedied, details of which will be found included in the Table appended to this Report.

7 overcrowded and 5 dirty houses were discovered and the proper notices of abatement were issued and in all the cases the legal requirements were carried out. One house was found to be dirty and so dilapidated that it was condemned as "dangerous and unfit for habitation."

I inspected the carcase of pig which had been killed because of injury and sickness. It was unfit for human consumption so it was condemned and afterwards destroyed. As there was a deliberate and wilful attempt to dispose of manifestly unsound meat a prosecution was ordered by your Sanitary Committee, which was successful, a fine of £5 being imposed.

Your Sanitary Inspector reports to me as follows:

SMOKE NUISANCE—OBSERVATIONS, 119—

Several stokers and others in charge of boilers were cautioned and 6 notices of abatement were issued to owners. Legal proceedings were successfully taken in respect of one case, a fine of £2 2s. being imposed.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS—NUMBER ON REGISTER, DAIRIES, 107; COWSHEDS, 187; INSPECTIONS MADE, DAIRIES, 214; COWSHEDS, 382—

All the Cowsheds and Dairies were limewashed. The floors of 6 Cowsheds were repaired, 8 Cowshed drains were found to be defective and were either repaired or reconstructed. 8 Cowshed drains were trapped. The drains of 6 Dairies were repaired. 2 new liquid manure tanks were provided. 8 notices were issued to tenants relating to insanitary conditions and abatement was effected in each case. One case of pig-keeping in contravention of the order in respect of pig-keeping was notified and compliance with the order was obtained.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES—NUMBER ON REGISTER, 10—

Inspections, 376. All the premises were in a satisfactory condition. 6 notices in respect of limewashing and 2 in respect of defective drainage were issued and the demands were complied with.

BAKEHOUSES—NUMBER ON REGISTER, 10—

51 visitations were made, all the premises being found in a satisfactory condition. 3 notices were issued in respect of limewashing and 4 in respect of sanitary defects, all of which were attended to. 1 drain was repaired, 3 were reconstructed and 2 new water-closets were provided.

VANS, TENTS, ETC., USED AS DWELLINGS—

26 visited the district and were inspected. The sanitary regulations were properly observed.

WORKSHOPS, ETC.—NUMBER ON REGISTER, 26—

Inspections made, 88. All were limewashed. 4 notices in respect of sanitary defects and 6 in respect of limewashing were issued. 6 defective drains were repaired or reconstructed and 6 were trapped. 2 new water closets were provided.

SCAVENGING—PRIVIES AND ASHPITS—

2039 ashpits were cleansed in the scavenging area of Bromley Cross, Eagley, Egerton and Chapeltown. Regular inspections of the ashpits outside this area were made and the ashpits and privies were found in a fairly satisfactory condition. The refuse tips were also visited and their condition was also satisfactory.

Number defective	....	....	....	77
Number repaired	....	....	....	54
New privies erected	....	....	....	6
Conversions to slop-water carriage system	....			25
New water-closets in lieu of ashpits....	....			14
Conversions to dry ash houses	....	....		20

The following is a summary of the Sanitary Work performed during the year:—

Number of inspections	....	....	....	1551
Number of re-inspections	....	....	....	1775
Outstanding notices from previous year	....			24
Notices issued	....	....	....	149
Nuisances abated	....	....	....	147
Notices; time limit unexpired	....	....		26
Smoke testing of drains	....	....	....	293
House drains re-constructed, repaired, &c.	....			227
House drains trapped	....	....	....	159
Main drains re-constructed	....	....	....	10
Surface of yards repaired, &c.	....	....	....	80
Slopstone pipes disconnected, repaired, &c.	....			130
Ventilating shafts fixed to main sewer	....			15
Downspouts disconnected, repaired, &c.	....			153
Carcases of meat inspected	....	....	....	11
Carcases of meat unfit for food; destroyed	....			3
Urinals re-erected, repaired, &c.	....	....	....	6
Houses fumigated	....	....	....	82
Schools fumigated	....	....	....	1
Accumulations of filth removed	....	....		7
Pigstyes near dwellings removed	....	....		2

The following Tables are appended to this Report:—

- 1.—Statistics of whole District during the year, &c.
- 2.—Vital statistics of the separate localities.

- 3.—Infectious diseases notified during the year.
- 4.—Cause of, and age at, deaths during the year.
- 5.—Infantile Mortality during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

J. ROBINSON, M.D., L.S.Sc., etc.

Medical Officer of Health.

Rockfield, Dunscar,

February 13th, 1907.



